

REVOLUTION IN PANAMA? CONGRESS FOR ECONOMY.

GRAVE RUMORS AFLOAT. Minister at Washington Hears Reports He Declines to Discuss.

(From The Tribune Bureau.) Washington, Nov. 21.—Rumors of a revolution in Panama reached Washington this evening, and while diligent inquiry failed to obtain any confirmation of the report that actual hostilities had occurred, it is true that relations between the Amador administration and the Liberal party are strained, and that a delicate situation exists, as was shown in the exclusive dispatch to The Tribune of last Sunday. General Obaldia, the Panamanian Minister, said this afternoon that he has heard certain rumors, but declined to discuss them beyond the statement that he did not believe that they were true.

R. L. Farnham, counsel for Panama, who has recently returned from the isthmus, said this evening that he did not believe that there had been a revolution, and that if any disturbance had occurred, it was doubtless due to a few headstrong men on one side or the other.

Speaking of the leaders of the Liberal party, Pablo Arosemena and Dr. Morales, Mr. Farnham said: "They are both men of the highest repute and of unlimited common sense, in whose hands the government of Panama is as safe as it could possibly be. No revolution can have occurred without their approval, and if there has been any disturbance it must have been caused by a few headstrong men, or, of course, the authorities, on the isthmus, are in a position to restore order immediately, even if there has occurred any resort to arms."

It is learned that the Liberal party, of which the men named are the leaders, is impressed with the conviction that it has not in the past been allowed a fair and free hand. Some of the Liberals even go as far to suggest that if there is anything partaking of a revolution it was precipitated by the party in power, of which President Amador is the head, with a view to furnishing an excuse for the exercise of military power to curtail the freedom of the campaign for the next election about to be instituted by the Liberals.

Of course no serious disturbance can occur on the isthmus, for if the authorities should prove unable to quell it, the United States would promptly exercise its right to preserve order and the freedom of traffic across the isthmus.

In addition to the accusation that the Amador administration has and still purposes to interfere with the free expression of the will of the people at the polls, it is said that the President has been guilty of nepotism in the distribution of federal offices, and the Liberals appear to have decided that the time has arrived for a redistribution of the spoils. To those familiar with the situation on the isthmus, the petition addressed to Secretary Taft, the text of which was printed in last Sunday's Tribune, is manifestly significant.

BRITISH ARMY REFORM. Secretary for War Issues Minute on General Staff.

London, Nov. 21.—H. O. Arnold-Forster, Secretary for War, today issued an important minute embodying the decisions of the Army Council for the formation of a general staff, such as possessed by other European powers. The minute is addressed to Lieutenant General Sir Neville Gerald Lyttelton, who on the advice of the Lord Escher Commission has already been appointed Chief of the General Staff.

Secretary Arnold-Forster lays down as the aim of this reform the gathering together "of the ablest men in the army, to place the fortunes of the army always in their hands and thereby to form a school of military thought, which shall be the guiding and not according to that of any other army."

The minute provides that the officers of the general staff shall be selected according to their rank, that they shall be in the prime of life, and be appointed for four years, the appointments to be renewed quadrennially.

THE MINNEAPOLIS AT DOVER. Cruiser Said to Have Struck Ground Off French Coast.

Dover, England, Nov. 21.—The United States cruiser Minneapolis arrived here to-day from Cherbourg, and exchanged salutes with Dover Castle.

The cruiser encountered a thick fog, and, it is said, struck ground off the French coast. She was piloted across the Channel by the master of a trawler.

LUNATIC'S BIG PENSION. Small Fortune for Veteran Too Crazy to Realize His Luck.

(From The Tribune Bureau.) Washington, Nov. 21.—An accrued pension of \$3,348 in a lump sum, together with payments of \$30 a month, has just been awarded by Pension Commissioner Warner to an old soldier of the Civil War, who is a patient in the government hospital for the insane here. It is the largest pension claim settled by the new commissioner since he has been in office. The sum has been accumulating for many years, the soldier himself, on account of his unbalanced mental condition, not being aware that he was entitled to a pension, it was brought to the attention of the pension authorities by the superintendent of the insane asylum.

The pension was allowed on the ground that the soldier, who fought in the 21st United States Infantry, contracted insanity in the service of the United States. The unusual thing about this pension case is that the money allowed for the claim is simply transferred by one department of the government to another.

The pensioner gets no special benefit out of his new found fortune, as it goes to pay the expenses for his maintenance ever since he lost his mind. The additional fund which is being paid in monthly instalments, however, will be sufficient to give him added comforts. The unfortunate man's condition is such that he will not be able to realize the sudden good fortune that has been thrust on him.

WOMAN RECOVERS SIGHT AND DIES. Joy Over Seeing Again Causes Two Strokes of Apoplexy.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Winnetonka, Minn., Nov. 21.—Shock, following an operation which restored her eyesight, caused the death of Mrs. Sarah Whitten, sixty-six years old, of New-Britain, yesterday. She had been totally blind for three years. Friends contributed the money to provide for an operation, and she was overjoyed at the prospects of seeing again. She was in comparatively good health when she submitted to the knife a couple of weeks ago, but two strokes of apoplexy caused her death.

SENATOR PLATT TESTIFYING BEFORE THE INSURANCE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.



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EXPLOSION KILLS FOUR. SAY HE GAVE KRUP BAIL.

International Smokeless Powder Laboratory Shattered. SUBPOENA S. F. PICKETT.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) New-Brunswick, N. J., Nov. 21.—Four men were killed by an explosion in the laboratory of the International Smokeless Powder Company at Parlin, near Sayreville, this afternoon. The victims were:

APPELGATE, John, twenty-five years old, Sayreville. PRICE, John, twenty years old, South River. REDPATH, L. W., thirty years old, superintendent of the laboratory. SPRATFORD, Frank, forty-five years old, Sayreville.

While these four men were at work in the laboratory, about 4 o'clock, there was a sudden explosion, which shook the surroundings like an earthquake. Flames shot from the room, and in an instant the whole building, which was detached, was on fire. The fire spread to a second building, and, although the fire department connected with the plant used every effort to check the flames, both buildings were totally destroyed. The main buildings of the plant were not destroyed. The force of the explosion threw the men to bits.

At the office of the company the superintendent declined to give any particulars of the explosion. He said that two buildings had been burned. When asked about the dead and injured he said that he was too busy to give out any information.

Frank Spratford was a widower with one child, John Applegate was a young man of about twenty-five, who was married a short time ago. John Price leaves a wife and two children. About two months ago he underwent an operation for appendicitis, and it was only yesterday that he returned to his work in the laboratory of the powder works. Mr. Redpath was a bachelor, and lived at the Parlin Club, where many of the officials of the works live. The exact cause of the explosion is unknown, except that it was due to chemicals. Unusual precautions had always been taken at the works to prevent accidents.

The laboratory was well stocked and made excellent fuel for the flames, which spread rapidly. The explosion was heard for miles around and attracted crowds to the scene. Coroner Haines, of South Amboy, viewed the bodies and gave a permit for burial.

UNHURT UNDER TRAIN. Blind Man Has Remarkable Escape on Brooklyn Bridge.

At this end of the Brooklyn Bridge in the rush hour last night a man who had just left a train from Brooklyn was seen to step off the platform and fall just as another train approached. The crowd yelled, and the motorman, who had seen the man fall, brought his train to a sudden stop. Platform men, policemen and others jumped to the tracks, thinking the man had been ground to pieces, but when he shouted from under the car "Me no hurt" the first car was uncoupled and pushed ahead, and there lay an Italian bearded man, the rails flat on his back.

He was uninjured, although one car had passed over his body. The man, who said he was Vito Orpelo, of No. 18 Marion-st., was found to be blind.

TRIP IN STOLEN "AUTO." Contractor's Son Says He Tried to Sell It for Owner.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Stamford, Conn., Nov. 21.—While policemen searched for him between Stamford and New-York, Arthur McMullen, Jr., nineteen years old, the son of Arthur McMullen, head of the contracting concern of Arthur McMullen & Co., with offices at No. 21 Park Row, New-York, was having a great time last night and to-day in the \$3,000 automobile of Archibald Smith, a broker, with offices at No. 71 Broadway, New-York.

The McMullens and Smiths are neighbors in Stamford. Young McMullen goes to school at Southington, Conn. On Friday he came home, and failed to go back to school on Monday. Late last night he borrowed Mr. Smith's car, and, with a friend named Sennwald, set out for New-Rochelle. The car broke down at Greenwich. The boys spent the night in it. After repairing the break at New-Rochelle, young McMullen had negotiations with an automobile dealer for the sale of the car.

Late this afternoon McMullen and Sennwald flashed through Port Chester, going east. A policeman tried to stop them, but did not succeed. The Stamford police were warned by telephone, and Constable Oefinger jumped into an automobile and headed off McMullen and Sennwald in Greenwich. He brought them home.

"I was trying to sell the machine for Mr. Smith," said young McMullen, but Mrs. Smith says that her husband did not know the boy had the car or was trying to sell it, although it is a fact that it is for sale. She said: "We are inclined to look on it as a boyish lark."

JOCKO MADE "MONKEYS" OF GUESTS. DAYTON, OHIO, NOV. 21.—A reception last night at the home of John Donovan in Riverside was rudely interrupted by a monkey, named Jocko, belonging to an organ grinder, which entered the dining room and threw plates at the guests and chased them from room to room until captured. The monkey knocked at the door, and the hostess let him in, thinking he was a guest.

STUDENTS IN BLOODY BATTLE. CLEVELAND, NOV. 21.—A riot between one hundred students of Case School of Applied Science and a like number from the Western Reserve University occurred this afternoon, and when a squad of policemen stopped the fray the bell resembled a battle, the bruised and injured lying all around. Forty were injured, though none seriously.

THEATRE TRUST'S NEW CENTRE. Lederer Says Klaw & Erlanger Will Move Headquarters to Chicago.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Louisville, Nov. 21.—George Lederer, who is here superintending the bringing out of a new light opera, today said that the theatre trust, as represented by Klaw & Erlanger, would in future make its headquarters in Chicago instead of New-York. No cause is assigned for the change. Mr. Lederer says that the new play of Lew Wallace, "The Prince of India," will shortly be given at the Colonial, in Chicago, under his (Lederer's) direction.

SAW STEAMER BLOW UP. Captain of Vessel at Halifax Tells Strange Tale of Sea.

Halifax, N. S., Nov. 21.—The violent storm which swept the coast of Nova Scotia the latter part of last week has apparently claimed another vessel.

A two masted steamer is thought to have gone to the bottom on Thursday afternoon off Beaver Harbor, on the east coast of the province, fifty-five miles off Halifax. Her identity has not been established, and so far as can be ascertained not one of her crew is alive.

News of the disaster, which is one of the strangest in shipping records, was brought to Halifax to-night by the steamer Kilkree, commanded by Captain Allan. The Kilkree on Thursday morning ran into a gale which kicked up so vicious a sea that Captain Allan decided to run for shelter. Heading into Beaver Harbor at 10 o'clock he observed behind him another steamer with two masts, heavily laden, apparently also seeking shelter. The gale was then blowing at a terrific rate and the seas were breaking heavily on the numerous shoals which stud that coast.

When the Kilkree reached the haven the unknown steamer passed west of Horse Island, near the harbor entrance, which hid her hull. Suddenly a great cloud of smoke or steam shot upward, and when it cleared away, the masts of the incoming steamer had vanished. The officers on the Kilkree, who had been watching the approaching steamer, declare that they are positive she went to the bottom, and they say they are sure that no boat could live in the sea which prevailed.

They believe that she ran too far west and struck a rock and that as she foundered her boilers exploded. Nothing could be ascertained to establish her identity. It is improbable that any of her crew escaped.

FLEET OFF FOR TURKEY. Rumor That Sultan Will Yield to Powers' Demands.

Vienna, Nov. 21.—The first section of the Austrian squadron, which will form part of the combined fleet of the powers under Admiral Ritter von Jedina, of the Austrian navy, in the proposed demonstration in Turkish waters, is due to arrive at the Pireus at daybreak on Thursday morning. The Italian warships will probably arrive at the Pireus after the Austrian vessels, and it is expected that the French contingent will follow. Hopes are still entertained here that the Sultan will accede to the demands of the powers regarding Macedonian reforms and thus obviate the necessity of a demonstration.

London, Nov. 21.—The British armored cruiser Lancaster and the scoutship Sentinel have been dispatched to the Pireus.

Constantinople, Nov. 21.—The prolonged conferences of the Council of Ministers at the Yildiz Palace are believed to indicate preparations to yield in principle to the demand of the powers for the acceptance of the financial reforms decided upon for Macedonia. Probably, however, the Turkish government will make further attempts to obtain modifications of the plans before definitely accepting the full programme. The arrival of the international fleet at the Pireus is likely to hasten the Turkish decision. The Russian fleet has returned to Sevastopol, after a short cruise in the Black Sea.

ARMOUR FACES BIG LOSS. Bull Operations Cost Grain Speculator Half a Million Dollars.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Chicago, Nov. 21.—The bears in the corn and wheat pits of the local Board of Trade have J. Ogden Armour, the big bull grain speculator, on the run. The action against the wealthy packer, which forced him to unload millions of bushels of his long and the Bridge Commissioner from awarding the contract to the Pennsylvania Steel Company at a cost of more than \$500,000.

Gage, according to Commissioner Best, got the injunction for the John Pierce Company, the next lowest bidder. Justice Dowling on September 18 adjourned the hearing in the argument of Gage's case to get a permanent injunction. This is the third time the injunction has been continued. The Pierce company bid \$3,386,491.44.

Justice Dowling, in granting the continuance of the injunction, said that the plaintiff has introduced proof to show that the nickel steel would cost \$274,000, while the high carbon steel would cost \$250,000, or, a ladder having his own plant, \$225,000.

"It is established that there is a large difference," says Justice Dowling, "in the present price of these alternative materials, amounting, in my opinion, from the evidence to date to \$200,000. What justification is offered for such an unsatisfactory and costly method of specification?"

NEW BRIDGE HOLD-UP. Justice Continues Injunction Restraining Award of Contract.

The new Manhattan Bridge has received another setback. Justice Dowling, in the Supreme Court, yesterday granted the application of George Gage, a taxpayer, for the continuance of an injunction restraining the city and the Bridge Commissioner from awarding the contract to the Pennsylvania Steel Company at a cost of more than \$500,000.

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MR. PLATT TELLS OF FUNDS. STATE CAMPAIGNS GIFTS.

Admits "Moral Obligation" to Contributors—"The Man Up River."

The following were the most important points brought out at the legislative insurance investigation yesterday:

First—That Senator Thomas C. Platt had for many years collected funds from insurance companies for State elections.

Second—That the Equitable contribution had been \$10,000 annually; that of the Mutual \$10,000, occasionally, and that the New-York Life apparently made no contribution.

Third—That these sums were paid by Senator Platt to the chairman, secretary or treasurer of the Republican State Committee.

Fourth—That the Senator understood that in return for these contributions he should, through his influence with the State committee, see that no hostile legislation was enacted.

Fifth—That he had never been asked to intervene to stop any such hostile legislation.

Sixth—That Senator Depew's "friend up the river" was W. S. Manning, of Albany, who has collected "hush money" from the Mutual and Equitable for many years for not "being hostile" to these companies.

Seventh—That the Equitable carried on its payroll a former Tammany president of the Board of Aldermen and Acting Mayor, who obtained the reduction of the real estate assessments of officers of the Equitable.

MR. PLATT ON STAND. Contributions All Turned Over to State Committee, He Says.

Appearing before the investigating committee to explain his relation to the collection of funds for political purposes from insurance companies Senator Thomas C. Platt yesterday made it clear for the first time that such funds had been collected and used in State campaigns. The Senator's appearance was due to the declaration made by ex-Governor Odell, when he was on the stand last week, that the gathering of funds for campaign purposes was the exclusive prerogative of the Senator. Meeting this declaration, Senator Platt testified that he had received the money, which was brought to his office in currency by representatives of insurance companies, and that he had promptly turned it over to the State committee, of which ex-Governor Odell and Colonel George W. Dunn have been the two recent chairmen.

Up to the time Senator Platt testified yesterday nothing had been shown before the committee justifying the theory that the insurance companies had made political contributions except to the last three national campaign funds, when the issue of sound money was involved. Richard A. McCurdy, president of the Mutual Life, was exceedingly definite on this point, but Senator Platt was equally certain yesterday both that the Mutual had contributed several times, \$10,000 each time, that he had talked about this with President McCurdy and that the latter must have known the purpose of the contribution. Thus another striking contradiction in the sworn testimony of the witnesses was furnished.

On the quid pro quo received by the insurance companies in return for their contributions Senator Platt also supplied some of the most startling evidence the commission has listened to. While the Senator was sure that he had never been asked to interfere with legislation and had never received any suggestion from insurance officials relative to judicial nominations, he acquiesced in the following summary of the matter made by Mr. Hughes:

THE MORAL OBLIGATION. "Isn't that the way it usually comes about, Senator, that the use of these contributions in the election of legislative candidates to office puts the candidates more or less under moral obligations not to attack the interests supporting them?"

"That is naturally what would be involved," was the calm reply.

The coming of the Senator was attended with rather unusual circumstances. Carried from the ground floor to the chamber, the Senator tottered to the witness chair, supported by his counsel, Robert C. Morris, and his secretary, Albert T. Howe, on whom he leaned heavily as he mounted the witness stand. Both in his appearance and in the lack of volume in his voice, the Senator gave the impression of marked feebleness, but although he spoke slowly his answers were for the most part clear and adequate. He suffered from occasional lapses of memory, but this has been true of a majority of those who have appeared before the committee.

As a witness he was calm and cool. He neither volunteered any suggestion nor showed the slightest sign of any desire to extend his testimony beyond his own relation to campaign funds. He made it perfectly clear that he had never had to do with the national committee collections. As he sat in the witness chair he leaned rather heavily on a gold headed cane and frequently raised his hand to his chin as he answered, adopting the familiar attitude recognized by all members of the old "Sunday school" class. His voice, however, was so weak that it was hardly audible to the stenographer, and the crowd could not distinguish half a dozen words.

SENATOR PLATT TAKES STAND. As he mounted the witness stand, Senator Platt stood waiting to be sworn. He bowed pleasantly to the members of the committee, but on Senator Armstrong's request he took the oath sitting. Directly after this Robert C. Morris, who appeared as Mr. Platt's personal counsel at the Senator's special request, started to make a statement, but Senator Armstrong stopped him, explaining that this procedure was not permitted. Mr. Morris merely added that he desired to say for Senator Platt that he was anxious to testify fully and frankly about all matters in which he might have information. Then Mr. Hughes began his examination, which follows in full:

Q.—Senator Platt, evidence has been given here as to contributions made by insurance corporations for political purposes. We should be glad to have your testimony upon that subject, so far as the matters are within your knowledge. A.—Well, I have received contributions from some of these more particularly from the Equitable.

Q.—Would you state, please, what contributions you have received from the Equitable for political purposes? A.—I could not state what contributions, because I have not any record of it at all.

Q.—During what period of years have such contributions been made? A.—Oh, I should think at least ten years.

Q.—Have you had anything to do with the recording of contributions in connection with national campaigns? A.—No, not in national campaigns; State campaigns.

Q.—Solely with reference to State campaigns? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Has it been the practice of the Equitable to make contributions for State campaigns to the Republican party? A.—It has; so far as it has any contribution to me, they have information, from the Equitable have about \$10,000 a year.

Q.—And for how long and in what amounts have those contributions been? A.—The contributions from the Equitable have been about \$10,000 a year.

Q.—Each time? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—And with the recording of such contributions began at about what date? A.—